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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/714,947 | 11/18/2003 | Hitoshi Kato | 03560.003398 | 4521 |
| 5514 | 7590 | 04/05/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | BRASE, SANDRA L | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2852 | |

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/714,947

Applicant(s)

KATO ET AL.

Examiner

Sandra L. Brase

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/18/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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Quayle Action

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters “S1, S2 and S3” have been used to designate path sensors located in the folding device, path sensors located in the bookbinding device and path sensors located in the finisher; reference characters “S4 and S5” have been used to designate cover-closing motion detection sensors in a folding device, cover-closing motion detection sensors in a bookbinding device; reference character “M1” has been used as a motor for driving transfer roller pairs 503 and 504, a motor for driving the transfer roller pairs 602, 603 and 604, and a motor for driving the inlet transfer roller pair 702; reference character “M2” has been used to designate a motor for driving a folding roller 521, a motor for driving the folding roller 620, and a motor for driving the transfer roller pair 706 and the non-sort discharge roller 703; reference character “M3” has been used to designate a motor for driving transfer rollers 527 and 528, a motor for driving the sheet positioning member 625, and a motor for driving bundle discharge rollers 705a and 705b; reference character “M4” has been used to designate a tray hoisting motor for driving a

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bookbinding discharge tray 630, and a tray hoisting motor for driving the stack tray 722; reference character "M5" has been used to designate a conveying motor for driving the transfer roller 605, and a sort discharge motor for the finisher; and reference character "SL1" has been used to designate a solenoid for switching the folding-path selection flapper 510, a solenoid for switching the folding-path selection flapper 610, and a solenoid for switching the path selection flapper 710. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to because in figure 2, block 101, "DOCUMENT" should be changed to "DOCUMENT". In figures 19A and 19B, "MINTENANCE" should be changed to "MAINTENANCE". In figure 26, block S2010, "PRIOLITY" should be changed to "PRIORITY". In figure 29, the path label "NO" out of block S2310 should be changed to "YES", and the path label "YES" out of block S2310 should be changed to "NO". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the

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immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: SL2, 650, 668, S1114 and S2308. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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5. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767 and 768. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

6. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities.

Appropriate correction is required.

On page 5, line 24; and on page 6, lines 2, 10, 14, 18 and 22, insert "for" between "means" and "every".

The description of figure 6 on page 8, lines 14-15 is incorrect.

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The description of figure 7 on page 8, lines 16-18 is incorrect.

On page 17, line 7, “an” (both occurrences) should be changed to “a”.

On page 23, lines 19 and 20; on page 25, lines 5 and 6; on page 26, lines 18 and 19; on page 34, line 3, “an” should be changed to “a”.

On page 26, line 17 – page 28, line 17, a description appears that refers to figure 6; however, the features described do not appear in figure 6.

On page 28, line 21, “7-10” should be changed to “6 – 10”.

On page 28, line 21; on page 29, lines 6 and 20; on page 31, line 5, “7” should be changed to “6”.

On page 28, line 24, “8 and 9” should be changed to “7-9”.

On page 29, line 4, “reflector 70” should be changed to “finisher 700”.

On page 29, line 25, “551 and 552” should be changed to “651 and 652”.

On page 36, lines 1 and 2, “added” should be changed to “indicated”.

On page 44, line 13, “S1004” should be changed to “S1005”.

On page 55, line 24, “S2205” should be changed to “S2005”.

On page 61, lines 13 and 17, “S2303” should be changed to “S2301”.

On page 61, line 24, “S2302” should be changed to “S2002”.

Claim Objections

8. Claims 2, 3 and 4-13 are objected to because of the following informalities.

Appropriate correction is required.

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On line 3 of claim 2; on line 3 of claim 3; on lines 6 and 11 of claim 4; on line 3 of claim 5; and on line 3 of claim 6, “for” should be inserted between the words “means” and “every”

Allowable Subject Matter

9. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Claims 1-3, 10 and 12

The primary reasons for allowance are determining means for determining maintenance availability of each of the plurality of processing modules based on contents of a job presently in execution and contents of jobs registered in the job registering means; and displaying means for displaying determined results of the determining means. The above limitations are contained in claims 1-3, 10 and 12, but are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Claims 4-9, 11 and 13

The primary reasons for allowance are calculating means for calculating an availability period of time for maintenance for every one of the processing modules based on contents of a job presently in execution and contents of jobs registered in the job

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registering means; and displaying means for displaying the available period of time for every one of the processing modules calculated by the calculating means. The above limitations are contained in claims 4-9, 11 and 13, but are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Prior Art

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ito et al. (US 4,682,158), Tomiyama et al. (US 5,239,547), Suzuki (US 6,327,446), Takeuchi et al. (US 6,704,523) and Barrett (US 6,795,658) disclose a maintenance procedure.

Yamada et al. (US 6,549,734) disclose an image forming device including a door for a post processor with a door detection device.

Kawata et al. (US 6,381,443) disclose an image forming apparatus including three post-processing units.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sandra L. Brase whose telephone number is 571-272-2131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur T. Grimley, can be reached on 571-272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sandra L. Brase
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

April 1, 2005